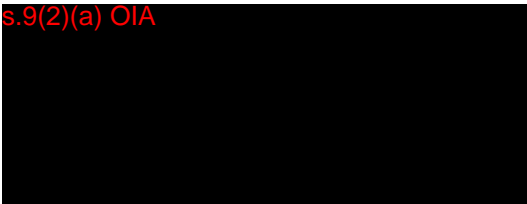


24 April 2024

s.9(2)(a) OIA



Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 7 March 2024 in which you requested information regarding firearms licence revocations.

The mission of Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority is to make firearms use in Aotearoa the safest in the world by effectively implementing the regulations in accordance with the law to oversee lawful firearms possession in New Zealand.

The Arms Act 1983 (the Act) provides a regulatory framework which seeks to protect the public from the harm that may be caused by the misuse of firearms.

Under the Act, firearms possession is limited to those who are fit and proper to possess firearms, use them safely and responsibly, and who comply with their legislative responsibilities.¹

Section 24A of the Act provided the circumstances where an applicant may be found not fit and proper to hold a licence by Te Tari Pūreke. Section 27 of the Act outlines the circumstances where a firearms licence may be revoked. This information is publicly available and can be accessed here - [Fit and Proper \(s24A\) and Revocation \(s27\) of the Act](#)

My response to each part of your request can be found below.

1) From the year 2010 to 2023, how many Firearms Licences have been revoked? Please detail how many per calendar year.

Please refer to Table 1 below which shows the number of firearms licences and dealer licences revoked from 2010 to 2023.

¹ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1983/0044/latest/LMS364370.html>

Table 1: Number of individual firearms licences and dealer firearms licences revoked from 2013 to 2023

Year of Revocation	Individual Firearms Licences Revoked	Dealer Firearms Licences Revoked
2010	682	0
2011	634	1
2012	566	1
2013	568	0
2014	525	1
2015	580	1
2016	485	2
2017	491	1
2018	529	0
2019	506	1
2020	783	3
2021	1,160	1
2022	826	6
2023	896	2
Total	9,231	20
Total distinct count of licence holders²	9,060	20

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 14 March 2024.

If a firearms licence is revoked, it remains revoked unless the revocation is appealed and overturned. After five years, the person may apply and be issued with a new firearms licence if they are deemed fit and proper. If a firearms licence is revoked and the person also holds a dealer's licence, their dealer's licence is automatically revoked at the same time.³ Note that a licence holder may apply subsequently for a new dealer's licence; there is no set stand down period preventing the application.

Due to how the system records all status changes, any human errors and corrections made cannot be excluded and so, for example, a licence may appear as having two separate revocation occurrences rather than one⁴. To provide the data excluding these would entail a manual search of each individual entry; therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as it would require substantial research and collation.

Please note that the monthly data which is publicly available on Te Tari Pūreke website is based on financial year whereas the information in this response is based on calendar year, so there will be slight differences. However, the same query/methodology that is used in the monthly data was used for the data in this response.

² 'Total distinct count of licence holder' shows the count of unique licences across all years regardless of how many revocations an individual has had. The Total field provides the number of licences that may have been revoked multiple times (e.g. a licence revoked in 2018, then reinstated, and then revoked again in 2020, will show as one in Total distinct count, but two in Total).

³ Section 9(1) Arms Act 1983.

⁴ A "revoked>overturn>revoked" status can be either a legitimate duplicate per individual or an error however, it would entail a manual search of each individual entry to determine which.

2) From the year 2010 to 2023, could you please detail how many of those licenses were revoked and the length of time that license was held before revocation sorted in yearly age brackets: 0 to <1 years, 1 to <2 years, 2 to <3, 3 to <4, 4 to <5, 5 to <6, 6 to <7, 7 to <8, 8 to <9, 9 to <10 years.

Please refer to Table 2 below which provides a breakdown of individual licences and dealer licences revoked, and the number of years held those licences were held prior to their revocation, from 2010 to 2023.

The number of years a licence holder held a licence prior to the revocation is based on the date a licence was first issued to the date a licence was revoked. Due to how this data is recorded, to identify if a licence holder was unlicensed during these dates (i.e., suspension periods, other revocation occurrences, if there were several years between renewals, etc.) would entail a manual search of each individual entry. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as it would require substantial research and collation.

Table 2: Number of years a firearms licence has been held, broken down by the number of individual licences and dealer licences revoked, from 2010 to 2023

Years held	Individual Firearms Licences Revoked	Dealer Firearms Licences Revoked
0-1 Years	248	1
1-2 Years	466	0
2-3 Years	566	0
3-4 Years	597	3
4-5 Years	563	2
5-6 Years	516	2
6-7 Years	498	2
7-8 Years	429	0
8-9 Years	395	0
9-10 Years	382	1
10+ years	4,501	9
Total	9,161	20
Total distinct count of licence holders⁵	9,060	20

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 14 March 2024.

3) From the year 2010 to 2023, what was the number of firearms license applications (A-cat) that were rejected? Please provide the raw number out of the total applications submitted that year.

Your request has been interpreted to mean “firearms licence⁶” applications that have been “refused,” as there is no “rejected” status in the system. When a firearms licence application is refused or withdrawn, the licence status is updated to a “refused” status. This means that all “refused” and “withdrawn” applications are given a licence status of

⁵ Total distinct count of licence holders shows the count of unique licences regardless of how many revocations an individual has had. The Total field includes licences that may have been revoked multiple times (e.g. a licence revoked in the 0–1-year category, then reinstated, and then revoked again in the 2-3 year category, will show as 1 in 'Distinct Total' and 2 in Total).

⁶ A firearms licence without any endorsement formerly had been referred to as an “A-category licence.” It is now referred to as a “firearms licence.”

“refused”. Assessing if the applications were either “refused” or “withdrawn” would require a manual search of each individual application. Therefore, Police is refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the OIA as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research. Additionally, the data for “withdrawn” and “refused” applications was not captured in the system prior to 2020, therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held.

However, this response includes the total number of “withdrawn” and “refused” (combined) standard firearms licence applications from 2010 to 2018, noting that the number of “applications submitted” for those years are not available. From 2019 to 2023, the data for the number of applications submitted is included. Note that in the system, because the application date is overwritten each time a licence holder re-applies for a licence (also called “renewal”), application totals more than five years old will not be a true reflection of the total applications submitted each year.

Table 3 below shows the year a firearms licence application was refused or withdrawn, broken down by the number of individual licences refused or withdrawn from 2010 to 2023. From 2019 to 2023, the data includes the total number of applications received for each year.

Table 3: Firearms licence applications refused or withdrawn, broken down by individual applications refused or withdrawn from 2010, and total applications submitted from 2019 to 2023

Year of Refusal/Withdrawal	Individual Firearms Licences Refused/Withdrawn	Applications submitted
2010	216	Not available
2011	215	Not available
2012	498	Not available
2013	436	Not available
2014	496	Not available
2015	789	Not available
2016	792	Not available
2017	403	Not available
2018	268	Not available
2019	300	18,859
2020	803	15,808
2021	873	12,039
2022	1,077	12,405
2023	792	17,463
Total	7,960	76,574
Total distinct count of licence holders⁷	7,895	76,574

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 14 March 2024.

⁷ Total distinct count of licence holders shows the count of unique licences across all years regardless of how many refusals an individual has had. The Total field includes licences that may have been refused multiple times (e.g. a licence refused in 2018, then made current, and then refused again in 2020, will show as one in Total distinct count, and two in Total)

⁴ In lieu of capturing data in full calendar years, it is captured in full calendar months, not partial months.

4) Please provide the specific statutory/regulatory grounds for the license refusals and the number of times a rejection under one or more of those grounds occurred for 2010-2023, per year?

The information you have requested was not recorded by the reason for the refusal in NIA until 30 October 2023, at which time an additional field was created in NIA to enable reporting of specific sections of the Act. To provide an answer to your request prior to late 2023 would require Police to manually search each individual entry to identify and assess the information in scope. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

However, Police can provide the latest available data on grounds for refusals from 30 October 2023 to 29 February 2024. Note that the requested data is captured on a monthly basis.

Please refer to Table 4 below which provides a breakdown of each section of the Act under which individual standard firearms licence applications has been refused, broken down by year, from 30 October 2023 to 29 February 2024.

Table 4: The number of grounds for refusal under the Act used each year, from 30 October 2023 to 29 February 2024

Section of Act under which applications were refused	2023 (from 30 October 2023)	2024 (as at 29 February 2024)
22H(a): Disqualifying offences	4	5
22H(b): Disqualifying - Protection orders	3	4
23(1)(a): if a person is not over the age of 16 years	5	0
24(1)(b): if a person does not enable Police to inspect their firearms storage facilities and therefore Police are not able to be satisfied that they have storage, or if they do, Police are not satisfied that the person is compliant with storage requirements	1	0
24(2): Access is reasonably likely to be obtained by a person whose firearms licence has been revoked, is not fit and proper or is disqualified from holding a firearms licence	2	0
24A(1)(a): if a person is charged with or has been convicted of an offence in New Zealand or overseas that is punishable by a term of imprisonment	16	17
24A(1)(b): if a person is charged with or has been convicted of an offence under the Arms Act 1983	1	2
24A(1)(c): if a person is charged with or has been convicted of an offence against (i) section 231A of the Crimes Act 1961; or (ii) the Game Animal Council Act 2013; or (iii) the Wildlife Act 1953; or (iv) the Wild Animal Control Act 1977	3	2
24A(1)(d)(i): if a person has, or has had at any time, a temporary protection order made against them under section 79 of the Family Violence Act 2018	5	1
24A(1)(e): if a person has inflicted, or is inflicting, family violence against another person and that other person has grounds under the Family Violence Act 2018 to apply for a protection order in respect of that violence	4	4
24A(1)(g): if a person has engaged in any conduct involving non-compliance with any requirements of (i) this Act; or (ii) any regulations	18	26

made under this Act; or (iii) any conditions to which a permit, licence, or endorsement previously issued		
24A(1)(h): if a person shows, or has recently shown, symptoms of a mental or physical illness or injury that may adversely affect their ability to safely possess firearms	3	9
24A(1)(i): if a person abuses alcohol, or is dependent on alcohol, to an extent that affects detrimentally their judgement or behaviour	5	3
24A(1)(j): if a person uses drugs (illegal or legal) in a way that affects detrimentally their judgement or behaviour	4	2
24A(1)(k): if a person is a member of, or has close affiliations with, a gang or an organised criminal group	4	3
24A(1)(n): if a person satisfies any criteria prescribed in regulations made under Section 74(1)(bb)	1	0
24A(2)(c): In determining whether a person is a fit and proper person to be in possession of a firearm or an airgun, the member of the Police may take into account any other relevant matters the member of the Police considers appropriate	27	23
27(2)(a): Commissioned Officers revocation; Commissioned Officers revocation - Access	0	1
Reg 14: Every applicant for a firearms licence shall undergo a course of training which is designed to teach the applicant to handle firearms safely; and pass such tests as may be required to determine the applicant's ability to handle firearms safely	22	23
Total⁸	128	125
Total distinct count of licence holders⁹	75	77

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 14 March 2024.

5) For the years 2010 to 2023, for licenses that were suspended, how many of these firearms licenses were reinstated, revoked, or surrendered, and in what year did this action occur?

Please refer to Table 5 below which shows the year individual firearms licences were suspended, broken down by the number of firearms licences with a status of revoked, reinstated, surrendered, reinstate-in-progress, other, and suspended as at 14 March 2024 (2010 to 2023).

Note that when a firearms licence is suspended, the firearms licence status is changed to a suspended status. Once a decision has been made on the suspension, the licence status is changed to a status that reflects this decision (i.e., revoked, current etc.). Due to how this information is recorded in NIA, capturing an accurate status at any point in time would require Police to manually search of each individual entry, to identify the information in scope of this part of your request. This is primarily due to the requirement to manually check any duplicate records in situations where a licence holder has had multiple suspensions, or an interim status change is used¹⁰.

⁸ Sum is based on the sum of all categories however an individual may appear across multiple categories as multiple reasons can be selected per refusal.

⁹ Total distinct count is an overall distinct count of people regardless of whether multiple reasons have been selected.

¹⁰ Due to NIA limitations, a firearms licence in the status of 'suspended' or 'considering revocation - suspension' can only be changed to one of four options. These are 'cancel', 'make current', 'revoke' or 'considering revocation - no suspension'. At times a licence is changed to one of these four statuses as an interim so that it can then be changed to a status that is not one of these, e.g., a surrendered licence may be changed to 'current' before this is then changed to 'surrendered'.

Table 5: Year of firearm Licence suspension¹¹ broken down by the number of licences revoked, reinstated, surrendered, reinstate-in-progress, other, and suspended as at 14 March 2024 (2010 to 2023)

<i>Year of Suspension</i>	<i>Revoked</i>	<i>Reinstated</i>	<i>Surrendered</i>	<i>Reinstate in Progress</i>	<i>Other¹²</i>	<i>Suspended¹³</i>	<i>Total Suspensions per year</i>
2010	18	26	3	0	13	0	60
2011	16	33	1	0	15	0	65
2012	17	25	2	0	15	0	59
2013	5	19	4	0	8	0	36
2014	11	18	1	0	11	0	41
2015	9	4	1	0	3	0	17
2016	5	12	2	0	1	0	20
2017	11	6	4	0	8	0	29
2018	7	9	4	0	3	1	24
2019	12	10	1	0	5	0	28
2020	51	33	10	0	28	5	127
2021	891	348	29	1	58	12	1,339
2022	751	315	42	1	19	18	1,146
2023	799	447	41	1	13	85	1,386
Sum	2,603	1,305	145	3	200	121	4,377
Total distinct count of Licence holder¹⁴	2,527	1,289	142	2	199	115	4,274

Source: National Intelligence Application (NIA), retrieved 14 March 2024.

The data contained in this response is drawn from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is recorded or updated.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review this decision if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

¹¹ It is not possible to accurately capture the year a suspended licence is changed to another status in bulk data extracts therefore Table Five is broken down by the year of suspension rather than the year the action occurred.

¹² 'Other' includes licences that are Refused, Expired or Cancelled.

¹³ 'Suspended' identifies licences that are currently suspended while awaiting a revocation decision. As a licence holder may have several suspensions, a licence showing as suspended in 2018 where the current licence status is 'Suspended' does not necessarily reflect the licence has been in this status since 2018 as there is likely a more recent suspension that the suspended status relates to. Therefore, this licence would appear in the suspended category across multiple years.

¹⁴ 'Total distinct count of Licence holder' shows the count of unique licences across all years regardless of how many refusals an individual has had. The 'Sum' field includes licences that may have been refused multiple times (e.g. a licence refused in 2018, then made current, and then refused again in 2020, will show as 1 in 'Distinct Total' and 2 in 'Sum')

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the anonymised response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MB', with a horizontal line underneath.

Matt Boddy
Acting Director Operations
Firearms Safety Authority